

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims provided below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) A ventilating decorative floor covering for loose laying on ~~the~~ an upper surface of a floor ~~which~~ wherein the floor covering has a decorative upper surface and a lower surface on which are formed one or more studs so that ~~which~~, in use, ~~provide~~ an air gap is formed between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.

2. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the floor covering is chemically or mechanically modified to ensure that there is adequate grip between the lower surface of the floor covering and the floor to which it is applied.

3. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 2 wherein the modification is in the form of a softening and/or a roughening of the lower surface.

4. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface is roughened by including a blowing agent in the material from which the lower surface of the floor covering is formed.

5. (original) A floor covering as defined in Claim 3 wherein the lower surface is softened by including additional plasticiser or a chemical blowing agent in the material from which the lower surface of the floor covering is formed.

6. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which includes one or more particulate materials in the decorative upper surface of the floor covering to provide slip resistance.

7. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in Claim 6 wherein a particulate material is embedded in the decorative upper surface of the ~~flooring material~~ floor covering which material is at least partially proud from the upper surface to achieve adequate slip resistance.

8. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 comprising a plastics flooring material.

9. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 8 which includes a plastics material selected from the group consisting of a PVC, a plasticised PVC, a polyurethane, an epoxy resin, an acrylic, a plasticised acrylic, a polyurefin, a polyester, and a PVC plastisol.

10. (currently amended) A floor covering as defined in Claim 8 which includes a plastics material preferably in an amount of 100 to 200 parts per hundred parts of plastics material (php), a blowing agent preferably in an amount ~~from of~~ 0 to 2 php ~~parts per hundred parts of plastics material (php)~~, filler preferably in an amount of from 0 to 100 php, thermal stabiliser preferably in an amount of ~~from~~ 1 to 3 php, and/or a pigment preferably in an amount of from 1 to 3 php.

11. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the floor covering is a heterogenous floor covering.

12. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which includes a wear layer.

13. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 wherein the upper surface includes a decorative element such as a pigment and/or a PVC chip.

14. (previously presented) A floor covering as defined in Claim 1 which includes a support.

15. (currently amended) A method of laying a ~~slip resistant~~ floor covering as defined in claim 1 to decorate and ventilate a concrete floor having an upper surface which method includes loose laying on the upper surface of the floor a floor covering having a decorative ~~slip resistant~~ upper surface and a lower surface on which are formed a ~~plurality of~~ one or more studs and/or other suitable profiles which provide an air gap between the lower surface of the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor sufficient to ventilate the floor.

16. (cancelled)

17. (new) A method according to claim 15, wherein the floor covering is a slip resistant floor covering.